

1.913
E 2C 922UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Extension Service
Washington 25, D. C.

February 25, 1947

For administrative use only

TO ALL STATE EXTENSION DIRECTORS:

Subject: Current Farm Labor News - #5

H. R. 2102 which provides for a six months extension of the present Farm Labor supply program and for liquidation of the program by December 31, 1947, was reported-out to the House yesterday (Feb. 24) by the Committee on Agriculture (For wording of H. R. 2102 which replaces H. R. 1388 see dittoed letter dated Feb. 21, 1947). Section 2 of H. R. 2102 was apparently added by the committee as the result of testimony of Stanley Rector, chief counsel, Wisconsin State Employment Service, at the hearing on H. R. 1388 on February 6 (See Current Farm Labor News Letter No. 3 dated Feb. 7). When all further hearings were cancelled, no opportunity was afforded other witnesses to refute any of the assertions made by Mr. Rector. Enclosed is a dittoed copy of the report of the Agricultural Committee which accompanied H. R. 2102. The thinking of the House Committee on Agriculture is summarized in the following quotation from page 2 of the Report:

"It is the view of the committee that the present emergency farm-labor-supply program should be concluded by December 31, 1947, and that consideration should be given to the need for the development and establishment of a permanent program for the recruitment and placement of farm labor."

As a result of a survey which the Farm Labor staff conducted from September 13 thru December 31, 1946, at Arizona migratory farm labor information stations, Roy Young, state farm labor supervisor, now has a wealth of significant information concerning the flow and objectives of these workers as a basis for making fuller utilization of their services. The survey reveals that of the 10,477 migratory workers who entered or passed thru Arizona Farm Labor information stations, 7,109 were men, 3,368 were women and 3,421 were non-workers (mostly women and children). They traveled in crew trucks (8.39%), family cars (70.53%), individual cars or trucks (16.82%) and farmers trucks (4.18%). Before entering Arizona, 28.5% had definite job arrangements and 48.28% did not have such arrangements. The remainder (23.21%) entered the state in farmer trucks. In the total group 61.19% came directly from their homes while 38.80% were moving from area to area requiring workers. More than half the states were represented in the movement, the range being from 4,134 who claimed Texas as home, and 2,124 from Oklahoma, 634 from Arkansas and 649 from California to 51 from Michigan, 14 from Wisconsin, 51 from Kansas, 27 from Indiana, 11 from Ohio and two each from Mississippi and Maine. Jobs which they sought included cotton picking (70%), general farming (13.25%) and vegetable work (6.53%), fruit work (4.17%). Of the total 5.46% were seeking employment or were employed in other work. At two Arizona Extension information center camps, from September 13 to October 3, 1946, 1,319 workers stopped over night.

In Illinois, State Supervisor Murphy reports, 8 Farm Labor field men have been assigned to several weeks work in making a state farm labor survey. As the first project of the kind in the U. S., it has been organized thru cooperation of the

University of Illinois Department of Agricultural Economics, and BAE at Washington. It will cover about 1,200 farms and every county in the state. The objective is to gather up-to-date material needed by the College of Agriculture and the county agents in answering questions from farmers who want reliable information on farm problems. The objectives include information on average by-the-day and month farm labor wages in each farming type area; analysis of 1946 farm labor force as to married and single men and work by months, hour and piece rates; analysis of operator's and family labor; study and evaluate the use of bonus and incentive pay methods and the importance of perquisites received by hired workers in 1946; study the types and quality of housing furnished to workers in 1946 and to ascertain the amount of custom work and exchange of labor with neighbors in 1946, and the type of work done. Information from individual farmers will be strictly confidential and will be used only in combination with information obtained from many other farmers. None will be used in enforcement of wage fixing measures or for income tax purposes.

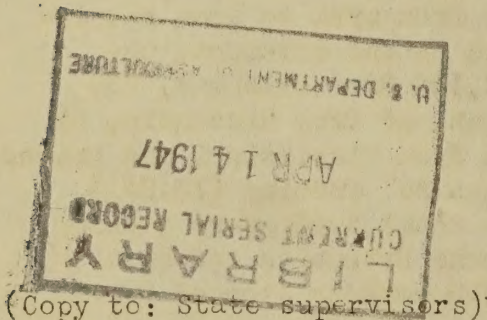
Labor saving show schedules have been received from 10 states listed below. If additional details are desired information can be obtained from the state Farm Labor supervisors. The states and dates are: Indiana (special train) 43 stops March 3-22; Kentucky 25 shows February 17-March 21; Maine 21 shows February 5-March 12; Michigan 58 shows January 3-March 29; Minnesota 43 shows February 5-May 14; Montana 40 shows January 27-March 21; Ohio 58 shows January 3-April 1; South Carolina 23 shows March 3-April 2; Tennessee 24 shows March 10-April 18 and Utah 29 shows January 20-March 21.

Russel M. Adams, assistant state supervisor in Oregon, has forwarded copies of a new idea in farm labor information material. It is a news letter (called the "Platoon Leaders Newsette") designed to help maintain a permanent and efficient county platoon organization. It is issued to meet each county's requirements, monthly or oftener or just during the school months. In a letter to farm labor assistants, Adams suggests that they "put in it" such materials as "interesting items from your annual report, plans for the future, what's going on now, what leaders are doing, accomplishments and jones". The "state office will help you develop your newsette", Adams writes the county people, and then just to prove it, he sends along a suggested copy including an illustrative sketch. Copies may be obtained by writing Mr. Adams at Oregon State College, Corvallis.

Yours very truly,

Meredith C. Wilson

Meredith C. Wilson
Deputy Director of Extension
Farm Labor Program



Enclosure